

## **Adopted Rule Amendment to be effective November 1, 2020:**

### **§329.5. Licensing Procedures for Foreign-Trained**

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**Summary of Amendment:** the amendment is adopted to update the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum standards accepted by the board as proof of English language proficiency for a foreign-trained licensure applicant. The amendment eliminates outdated scores and adds the most recent TOEFL scores adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

#### **Rulemaking Process:**

- Proposed by the PT Board at the July 24, 2020 meeting.
- Proposed Rulemaking Memorandum sent to the Regulatory Compliance Division, Office of the Governor on July 24, 2020 for review.
- Approved by the Executive Council of Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) at the August 7, 2020 meeting.
- Notification of review with no comments from Regulatory Compliance Division, Office of the Governor, August 6, 2020.
- Published in the August 21, 2020 issue of the Texas Register (45 TexReg 5824).
- Adopted by the PT Board at the October 9, 2020 meeting to be effective November 1, 2020.

### **§329.5. Licensing Procedures for Foreign-Trained Applicants.**

A foreign-trained applicant must complete the license application process as set out in §329.1 of this title (relating to General Licensure Requirements and Procedures). In addition, the applicant must submit the following:

(1) (No change.)

(2) Proof of English language proficiency. A foreign-trained applicant must demonstrate the ability to communicate in English by making the minimum score accepted by the board on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) ~~[TOEFL tests]~~ administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS).

(A) This requirement is waived for graduates of entry-level physical therapy programs in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

(B) Minimum acceptable TOEFL iBT (internet-based test) scores are as follows: Reading = 22, Writing = 22, Speaking = 24, and Listening = 21.

~~[(i) Paper-based TOEFL tests (pbt) – TOEFL (reading/comprehension) 580; TWE (writing/essay) 5.0; TSE (speaking) 50;~~

~~(ii) Computer-based TOEFL tests (cbt) — TOEFL (reading/comprehension) 237; TWE (writing/essay) 5.0; TSE (speaking) 50;~~

~~(iii)] Internet-based (ibt) — Writing 24; Speaking 26; Reading Comprehension 21; Listening Comprehension 18.]~~

(C) The board may grant an exception to the English language proficiency requirements under the following conditions:

(i) the applicant holds a current license in physical therapy in another state and has been licensed in another state in the U.S. for 10 years prior to application; or

(ii) the applicant submits satisfactory proof that he/she is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the U.S. or a current U.S. H-1B visa holder, and has attended four or more years of secondary or post-secondary education in the U.S.